

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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June 18, 1940

Chapter 5 ---3-b

TRADES AND CRAFTS

There were many tanners in the county, as shoes, harness saddles etc, had to be made in the county. Tanning the hides into good leather was a profession in itself, for it took twelve months of working with the hide to tan it into leather.

Ø Robert Shrader was one of the best harness makers in the county. He lived in The Hills community, where Frank Deputy now lives. He tanned his own leather and then made it into harness, bridles, saddles and shoes.

* Henry Shrader and R.C. Shrader were also successful tanners and William Fertig was a saddle maker. These men also lived in The Hills community not far from Huntersville.

Jake Smith of Edray was a tanner.

§ Thomas Morrison of Jacox was a very busy man. He built a grist mill that would grind both corn and wheat. On December 18, 1860 he did not come home for supper, and when members of the family went to investigate they found him dead, - caught in the wheels of the mill. For a number of years after his death his widow Sarah Morrison took care of the mill. She also wove blankets, coverlids and many other products of the spinning wheel and loom and sold. With the products of her loom and proceeds of the mill she earned a living for the family. Finally D.C. Hill, a son-in-law took over the mill. He rented it

out to tenants who cared for the mill for a share of the income. Thomas Morrison was also a wheelrite and a blacksmith. He had an old time turning lathe on which he made rolling pins and dough trays (large wooden bowls that resembled what we call a mixing bowl). He seems to have been a genius for making things. Mrs Wade McMillion of Jacox, a ~~grand~~-grand-daughter, has a loom and a spinning wheel that he made in the 1850' for his wife. They have been handed down from mother to daughter, and are still in use. Mrs. McMillion had a blanket in the making the day I was to see her. She also showed me some blankets and coverlids that Sarah Morrison had made years ago. D.C. Smith also made shoes and boots.

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Dustin { Lafayette Burner was a shoemaker.
Napoleon B. Arbogast--a shoemaker
Ellis Houchin-----a blacksmith and a gunsmith.
R. B. Curry and G.W. Burner had grist mills.

The only woman shoemaker I have found any record of in the county was Sally Moore of Beowns Creek. People say she was a excellent shoemaker.

* Perhaps the first shoemaker in the county was Thomas Drinnon, the pioneer who came here soon after John McNeel and the Kennisons came.

Charles and Jacob Kennison, the pioneer brothers, were skillful workers in wood with the broad ax and whip saw. Some of the first carpenter work ever done in this county was done by them and Richard Hill. Charles Kennison hewed the logs for John McNeel's house. He also prepared the logs for the house of Claiborne McNeill of Buckeye. His services were

greatly valued in planning and constructing forts.

Robert McClary of Mill Point was a saddle maker.

John Duffield had a grist mill where the Huntersville bridge crosses Knapps Creek. It was there at the time the Huntersville and Warm Springs Turnpike was built in 1836 to 1838, for the contract for the road calls for a bridge to be built across the creek at Duffield's mill dam.

John Bruffey, Sr. and his son John Bruffey Jr. were stone masons. While they did other work in stone, the making of grave stones was their specialty. Almost every cemetery in the lower section of the county, especially on Bruffeys creek, has stones made by the Bruffeys. John, Sr. was a Revolutionary war soldier, He met his death by being thrown from his horse when a deer jumped out of the brush and scared it. John Bruffey, Jr. had a very unusual experience with a bear onetime. He had at one time killed a panther with an ax. The panther was trying to catch a small dog that was under a log and while it had its attention on the dog Bruffey came up behind it and killed it with his ax. He decided that if he could kill a panther in this way that he could also kill other animals in like fashion, therefore he went into a laurel thicket on a bear, but was not successful and the bear got him by the knee and almost tore off his leg before help could be had.

oo C.B. Swecker came to Dunmore in 1877. He was a skilled mechanic in the trade of cabinet making and in architecture. He also followed the trade of auctioneering and was for many years one of the best auctioneers in the county.

The raising of live stock continued to be one of the chief sources of income for most of the land owners. We find in 1882, Moses Moore raised and sold stock to the amount of \$15,000. without mention of stock fed and held unsold.

o Samuel Sutton of Durbin was a blacksmith.

William Sutton a wagon maker and

John Sutton a cabinet maker. It is said that he made beautiful furniture.

From--*Hist. of Pocahontas--Price

Ø Charles Shinaberry-Clover Lick

Tom Bruffey---Lobelia

o Mrs. Geo. Kincaid---Durbin

\$ Mrs. Wade McMillion--Jacox

Apr. 23, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.

Pocahontas County

Chapter 5- Section 2-a

Shortly after the construction of the first road into Pocahontas County (1838) called the Warm Springs and Huntersville Turnpike, a man by the name of John Harness began hauling goods from Staunton into the mountains for the purpose of trading with the settlers. He made his headquarters at the home of John Bradshaw at Huntersville and here he began to trade his supplies of salt, coffee, powder, lead, a few pieces of calico, etc., for the pelts, venison and ginseng of the hunters. From this fact the place became known as Huntersville. It had a very prosperous development on account of the traders meeting here to exchange goods. It was no uncommon thing for the Huntersville merchants to realize three or four hundred per cent on dry goods, and not much less on groceries during the period from 1822 to 1845.

In 1852 a very disastrous fire occurred and destroyed most of the business part of the village. Other buildings were erected but were burned by the Federal troops to prevent its being a confederate depot for military supplies.

When peace was restored between the States, Huntersville recuperated rapidly. Many trades were carried on such as harness and saddlery, tailoring, blacksmithing, and hostelry in conjunction with salooning.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Chapter 5--Section a

With the pioneers, homes were what they wanted, where fathers and sons could be settled in communities. Along with subsistence they desired social comforts, and advantages of intelligent christian worship. The Scotch-Irish, by whom Pocahontas County was chiefly settled, had by inheritance the highest religious standards. Mr. Andrew Price in one of his writings said that the pioneers seemed to combine the qualities of courage, carnage and industry with religion.

The first Bible ever to have been brought to the waters of the Greenbrier was in the Wesch dialect and was brought by Martha McNeel, wife of John McNeel.

Mrs. Jacob Warwick of Clover Lick, a very pious woman, was said to have felt herself very honored when a minister would visit her home and preach. He would receive a nice horse or something else as valuable as a token of appreciation when he left. Mrs. Warwick in her old age gathered the first Sabbath School ever taught in Pocahontas County. In the summer her servants would lift her on her horse, and she would then ride about four miles to a school house where the Josiah Friel cabin stood. The exercises would begin about nine o'clock. There was no prayer, no singing; but she would read the Bible, talk a great deal, and give good advice. The scholars would read their Bible with her. The exercises would close about two in the afternoon. The school was mainly made up of Josiah Brown's

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family, John Sharp's, William Sharp's, and Jeremiah Jriel's. The lamented Methodist minister, Rev. James E. Moore, once belonged to the Sabbath School, and received from her his earliest religious instruction. It has been agreed that he did more for his church than any two ministers that have ever preached in this region.